

## **REMARKS**

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, and 27 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 6, 9, 23, 26, and 28, respectively, and cancels claims 3, 6, 9, 23, 26, 28, and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-22, 24, 25, 27, and 30 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 12-20 and 30. The Examiner, however, objected to claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 23, 26, and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,614 to Morris.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 12-20 and 30. Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 23, 26, and 28. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. In order to expedite prosecution of this case, however, Applicant amends claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, and 27 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 6, 9, 23, 26, and 28, respectively, and cancels claims 3, 6, 9, 23, 26, 28, and 29.

As indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 23, 26, and 28 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims. By incorporating the subject matter of claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 23, 26, and 28 into their base claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, and 27, claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, and 27 are now allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully

requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 24, and 27, and their dependent claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 22, and 25. Since Applicant also cancels claim 29, the rejection of claim 29 is therefore moot.


Applicant's proposed amendments place the present application in condition for allowance and do not raise new issues. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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